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# Najib: Society's way forward is moderation

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**PUTRAJAYA:** Adopting the principle of *wasatiyyah* or moderation is the most effective way for society to counter the threat of extremist violence as resorting to police action alone is not enough, said the Prime Minister.

"In my view, the most effective way is to make *wasatiyyah* a culture and value which we hold," said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak after the launch of his book - *Wasatiyyah, Ideas and Reality* - here yesterday.

He said he felt the need to introduce such a policy in light of the negative connotations that had arisen about Islam and Muslims.

The rise of terms such as radical Islam and Islamophobia, added Najib, meant that there was need to explain what authentic Islam was, which was the policy of *wasatiyyah*.

"This is where Malaysia can play a role as a thought leader because what we practise here in terms of complementing Islam in the country fulfils what is defined as authentic Islam," he said, adding that his book was written in both Bahasa Malaysia and English to promote the concept globally.

In the book, published jointly by the Wasatiyyah Institute of Malaysia and the Malaysia Institute of Books and Translation, Najib explains the practical implementation of the policy in the country's involvement in, among others, the Bangsamoro peace agreement and the retrieval of the MH17 black box and remains of the victims.

Earlier, at the 16th Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) Council meeting, Najib issued a directive for the authority in charge of the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER) to ramp up efforts on projects that involved people.

NCIA chief executive Datuk Redza Rafiq said efforts were underway to expand its people-related initiatives.

"Our two programmes to date have shown positive outcomes. We



**Royal touch:** Johor Crown Prince Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim paying Najib a visit at his residence Seri Perdana in Putrajaya.

are hoping to rope in more people to participate so that they too, will financially benefit from our plans," he said.

The NCIA programmes aimed at improving the livelihoods are SuriaKu, in which solar panels are installed on houses of low-income individuals, and another that helps padi farmers increase their yield.

Redza said NCIA was expected to surpass its investment target of RM6.5bil this year, based on the 50% achievement made to date, worth RM4.47bil.

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"NCIA will continue its efforts in broadening private sector participation, ensuring that social economic spillovers are equitably distributed among the people," he said.

Through private sector participa-

tion, there are supposed to be 8,000 jobs created in the NCER this year, of which 7,477 are already available.

To date, 39% of the investment made this year is from local investors in the manufacturing and agriculture sectors.

Earlier, Najib witnessed the exchange of documents between NCIA and Kuala Muda Selatan Farmers Organisation, Temasek Growth Sdn Bhd, FigDirect Sdn Bhd and Asset Research Sdn Bhd, over a total investment of RM960mil.